

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON,
JULIA MEJIA, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, MURPHY,
PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS FOR ABUTTERS MEETINGS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS:** Abutters meetings are important ways for neighbors to learn and provide input on building proposals or applications from businesses that have an impact on quality of life in their community, such as new developments, additions to existing buildings, licenses to selling liquors, among others; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Elected officials also rely on abutters meetings to gather information and hear community input on proposals, so that they can appropriately represent neighborhood interests at the Zoning Board of Appeals or at the Licensing Board; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Currently, flyers for abutters meetings are distributed by the proponents to residents living within 300 feet of the proposed project, with the notification also posted on the “Events” section on the City’s website; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Abutters have often reached out about not receiving notifications about abutters meetings, and City Councilors also often does not receive notifications until they hear from residents, even though elected officials’ offices are expected to attend the abutters meetings and weigh in on proposals; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There are concerns also on whether reliance on proponents to send flyers to abutters cause conflicts of interest, with the possibility that proponents of controversial projects may be less inclined to conduct a thorough abutters meeting and notify all abutters; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There are also many instances where abutters did not receive flyers because they live inside a large building, or that they are not notified by email or by other electronic means. There is currently no dedicated web page listing abutters meetings, and it is unreasonable to expect constituents and City Council offices to comb through the all the events listed to find abutters meetings; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Residents have also noted that 300 feet notification requirement is not adequate for many projects, especially for businesses seeking liquor licenses and changing operating hours, as these proposals will have impact on the quality of life of residents in entire surrounding area, much farther than a 300 feet radius; *and*
- WHEREAS:** It is critical that there is an adequate process of notification for abutters meetings for residents and City Councilors, so that they can attend the meetings, receive information, and gather feedback on projects and proposals impacting our neighborhoods; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the notification process for abutters meetings in the City of Boston. Representatives from the Office of Neighborhood Services, neighborhood associations, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 29, 2025